From: Grant Morrow
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 7:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

I am an avid Microsoft Windows and Microsoft products user. I have read the settlement the Department of Justice has proposed for the Anti-Trust case against Microsoft. There are several items within the settlement that I do not agree with. I not only do not agree with them, I also believe they will allow Microsoft to gain an even stronger hold on the software market than before this case was brought. Here are my reasons:

1) This settlement does not address free software's rights.
In today's software market, the Internet and many thousands of servers and computers across the U.S. and the globe are run by Free-Software. Under this proposed settlement, in Section III(J)(2) specifically, it contains some very strong language against free software/non-profit ventures. Specifically, the language says that it need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "...(c) meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business, ..."

This is unacceptable. Microsoft's biggest competitor to their Internet Information Server is Apache, which comes from the Apache Foundation, a non-profit, free-software group. Apache has a currently larger market share and is a more stable and less vulnerable software platform. By not allowing free-software/non-profit software groups to be able to hold their weight against their commercial counter-parts as this settlement does not, then Microsoft will be able to use this settlement to their advantage, and gain market share in areas they do not even currently dominate.

I hope my comments will be taken of note and that there can be a settlement reached that addresses these concerns.

Most respectfully,

Grant Morrow
Student, Southern Illinois University,
Carbondale, IL